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It would be foolish, I think, to make a sudden reversal of your plans for next year. However, I will keep your letter in mind, and if I can think of any useful direction to suggest to you, I will be in touch with you.

TO:

I have been interested in exobiology at least since Sputnik, and for several years have tried to promote a rational and scientifically rewarding exploitation of the opportunities for space travel. At the moment, I am on the teams for the Mars orbiter (photo-reconnaissance, 1971) and the Viking lander (1973); but it is hard for me to see a connection that would occupy someone of your own background as a principal occupation.

However, I will keep you in mind, and try to be a useful catalyst if I can see a way to it.

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